

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/031,399

Examiner

Tianjie Chen

Applicant(s)

SATO, KATSUHISA

Art Unit

2656

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 01/27/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4,5,7,10-17,20 and 26.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20051214
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


TIANJIE CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - With regard to claims 4, 5, 11, and 12 as the closest reference on record, Takamatsu et al (US 6,493,308) shows a disc player including: positioning unit, clamper unit, and a drive unit, and fit members; **but fails to show** they comprise fit pawls that are integrally formed by bending and erecting.
 - With regard to claims 14, and 15; as the closest reference on record, Takamatsu et al (US 6,493,308) shows a disc player including: positioning unit, clamper unit, and a drive unit, and fit members; **but fails to show** wherein a step plate equipped to the positioning unit and a clamp plate equipped to the clamper unit are engaged with a cam groove of a cam plate movable in parallel to a drive plate equipped to the drive unit and are movable vertically to the drive plate by movement of the cam plate,.
 - With regard to claims 7, 16, and 17; as the closest reference on record, Sakurai (6,345,030) shows a disc player including: positioning unit, clamper unit, and a drive unit, and fit members which are provided to the step plate and the clamp plate and engaged with the cam grooves of the cam plate; **but fails to show that** the positioning unit has a step plate, a G plate which is freely rotatably provided to the step plate and has, at one end thereof, a disc stopper on which a disc can be supported, and a sensor arm having, at one end thereof, an arm rod that can be fitted to the disc, the fitting positions of the other ends of the G plate and the sensor arm being changeable in accordance with plural discs different in diameter so that the discs can be positioned.

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- With regard to claims 10 and 20; as the closest reference on record, Sakurai (6,345,030) shows a disc player including: positioning unit, clamper unit, and a drive unit, and fit members which are provided to the step plate and the clamp plate and engaged with the cam grooves of the cam plate; **but fails to show** that the moving amount of the positioning unit is set so that a vibration-isolation stroke can be kept, and the moving amount of the clamper unit is set so that the vibration-isolation stroke can be kept and the clearance between the clamper unit and the clamper ring for clamping the disc onto the turntable can be kept.
- With regard to claim 26, as the closest reference on record, Sakurai (6,345,030) shows a disc player including: positioning unit, clamper unit, and a drive unit, and fit members which are provided to the step plate and the clamp plate and engaged with the cam grooves of the cam plate; **but fails to show** a disc stopper on which a disc can be supported; and a sensor arm including at one end thereof, an arm rod that can be fitted to the disc, wherein the fitting positions of other ends of the plate and the sensor arm are changeable in accordance with the plurality of discs comprising different diameters such that any one of the plurality of discs including different diameters can be positioned in the direction parallel to the drive unit for rotating by the drive unit.
- Applicant asserts: "According to the present invention, the step plate and the clamp plate are separately provided, and thus the moving amounts of both the plates can be set to different values. That is, the moving amount of the step

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plate can be set to such a value that a vibration-isolation stroke can be kept, and the moving amount of the clamp plate can be set to such a value that the vibration-isolation can be kept, and also the clearance between the clamp plate and the clamper ring can be kept" (Specification, pp. 3-4).


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tianjie Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-7570. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30, Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


TIANJIE CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER